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ST. DOGMELLS RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) 52,872. Population 7,664. Physical features and general character of the area—chiefly rural. Number of inhabited houses (1921)—2,092. Number of families or separate occupiers—2,100.

Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate:—Land, £26,801; buildings, £13,959. A penny rate produces £86 1s. 6d.

Social conditions and chief occupations—Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—128 births were registered during the year, 73 males and 55 females (3 illegitimate), giving a birth rate of 16.7 per 1000, which is 1.6 less than the birth rate of England and Wales for the same period.

Deaths.—125 deaths were registered, 52 males and 73 females, giving a death rate of 16.3 per 1000, which is 4.1 higher than that of England and Wales for the same period.

The chief causes of death were:—Influenza 3; tuberculosis of respiratory system 9; other tuberculous diseases 3; cancer, malignant disease, 24; cerebral haemorrhage, etc. 12; heart disease 23; arterio sclerosis 2; bronchitis 7; pneumonia (all forms) 6; other respiratory diseases 1; ulcer of stomach or duodenum 1; diarrhoea, etc. (under two years) 1; cirrhosis of liver 1; acute and chronic nephritis 6; congenital debility and malformations, premature birth 2; suicide 2; other deaths from violence 1; other defined diseases 21.

Infantile mortality.—11 infants died under one year, giving a death rate of 85.94 per 1000 births, compared with 75 per 1000 for England and Wales.

Causes of sickness, etc.—There are no outstanding causes of sickness or invalidity specially noteworthy in the district during the year, and no conditions of occupations or environment which appear to have any prejudicial effect on health.

HOSPITALS, Etc.

The following hospitals are provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:—

1.—**Tuberculosis.**—Cases of tuberculosis requiring hospital treatment can be admitted to Sealgham Hospital, situated near Haverfordwest, on application to the County Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Melville Rees.

2.—**Maternity.**—There is no maternity hospital or nursing home in the district, neither is there one available for the district.

3.—**Children.**—Children are admitted to the general hospitals; no special hospital available.

4.—**Fever.**—The fever hospital for the district is situated near the village of Eglwysrwrw. This hospital has recently been taken over and become the property of the County Council, and is to be utilized as a General Fever Hospital for North Pembrokeshire. A caretaker now resides on the premises and the hospital is kept in readiness for admitting any fever case at a moment's notice. About eight beds are at present available.

5.—**Small Pox.**—The above mentioned fever hospital would make an ideal small pox hospital when not in use. No special small pox hospital is available.

6.—**Other hospitals.**—There are no general hospitals situated in the district, but two are available for the district, viz., Cardigan and Haverfordwest. Patients from the parishes of Dinas and Llanychllwydog are usually sent to Haverfordwest, whilst those from the north part of the district are treated at Cardigan Hospital.

Ambulance facilities.—(a) Infectious cases. An ambulance for the conveyance of infectious cases can be obtained on application to the Isolation Hospital, Pembroke Dock. (b) For non-infectious cases. No ambulance in the district, the nearest one available for the district being at Cardigan Hospital.

Clinics and treatment centres.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, provided by the County Council, is held at Inglestone House, Newport, on the first Tuesday of every month. The Assistant County M.O.H. and the District Nurse are in attendance.

Public Health Officers.—The Public Health Officers of the Rural District Council are Ivor George, Sanitary Inspector, and Dr. David Havard, Medical Officer of Health.

Professional nursing in the home.—(a) General. This is carried out by means of district nurses provided by local voluntary Nursing Associations and supported by grants from the County Council. There is one nurse stationed at Newport, one at Dinas, one at St. Dogmaels, one at Crm-mvch, one at Eglwysrwrw, and one at Cilgerran. Maternity constituted the chief bulk of their work. (b) For infectious diseases. There are no nurses available for infectious diseases.

Chemical work.—No arrangements have been made by the Council for chemical work, which has not been required up to the present.

BYE-LAWS.

The following bye-laws have been made by the Council and have been in force since

1879, viz., with respect to (a) the cleansing of footways and pavements, (b) the removal of house refuse, (c) the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cess-pools, (d) also bye-laws with respect to common lodging houses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLIES.

St Dogmells.—This village possesses four piped supplies of water derived from four sources with four separate reservoirs supplying four defined districts. The Alltfach supply has been provided since my last survey report was submitted. This supply is constant, the other three are intermittent during the spring and summer months. As the result of joint action recently taken by your Council and the St. Dogmells Parish Council, water rights to two permanent springs yielding an abundant supply of wholesome water of undoubted purity and situated within 700 yards of the village, have been secured, and it is to be hoped that at no distant date it will be possible to lay the necessary length of pipes to convey the water from the said springs to the existing reservoirs, so as to ensure a constant supply of water all the year round, which will be an inestimable boon to the villagers.

Newport.—With streams of wholesome water from mountain springs passing waste through the centre and on either side of this popular seaside resort, the populace are still found depending for their supply of drinking water on deep and dip wells and small springs situated within or in close proximity to the town. The supply is fairly constant, but one would desire that the sources of supply were further removed from drains, gardens, and other possible sources of contamination. No attempt has yet been made to provide the place with a proper piped supply of water. A comprehensive water supply scheme was prepared by Major T. J. Moss Flower in the year 1919, but no further action was taken in the matter owing to the question of expense. The only improvements carried out in connection with the water supply of this town since my last survey report were effected during the current year, viz., (a) Provision of a new iron tank at Felindre to replace an old and corroded one, (b) Provision of an improved supply for King's Street. The old dip well was covered in and the water conveyed into a properly constructed storage cistern, thus ensuring a constant supply of wholesome water for residents of this part of the town.

Dinas.—As stated in my annual report for 1920, the lower part of this village is well supplied with water from springs yielding a good supply all the year round. Since that date an improved supply has also been provided for the upper portion of the village.

Cwmmyreglwys.—A dip well situated on the slope of a hill, and a considerable distance away, forms the main source of supply for this village. It is inadequate during the summer months when most required.

Boncath, Rhoshill, Penybryn and Blaenffos.—Each of these villages has been provided with a piped supply of water, the last named since my last survey report was made. The supply in each case is constant and adequate.

Abercych.—Dip wells situated alongside the main road are the main sources of supply for the upper portion of this village. The wells have been properly constructed and the supply of water is fairly adequate all the year round. During the current year a deep well was sunk in the lower part of the village in a field adjoining the main road and in close proximity to the school. The well is 27 feet deep and has been lined with cement concrete, the water being raised by means of a pump.

Moylgrove.—The district around Treboeth is the only portion of this village that has not been provided with an adequate and constant supply of water.

Cilgerran.—Cilgeran depends for its supply of water on a number of dip and deep wells, most of them in, and a few outside, the village. These are conveniently situated for the convenience of the majority of the population, but a not inconsiderable number of the villagers have got to go a long distance for their drinking water. The supply taken as a whole, especially during the summer months, is very inadequate, and the water obtained from one or two of the wells of a not very high standard of purity. Both the Parish and District Council are alive to the need of providing this village with a piped supply of water and three engineers have on different occasions been engaged to prepare schemes, including a ram expert, who is to report shortly on the feasibility of providing a supply from Ffynnon-lasged, an excellent spring situated some distance from the village. His report is eagerly awaited.

Eglwysrwrw.—This village gets its supply of drinking water from two springs situated within the village. The supply is both constant and adequate. It is proposed to provide a piped supply for the whole of the place from the more powerful of the two springs.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The Pentrelangwm district, in the village of St. Dogmells, is the only sewered part of the district. The rubble street drains, intended for surface water only, give trouble in all the villages and are the source of ever recurring nuisances. When the finances of the Council are again normal I trust the question of providing the villages of the district with a proper system of sewerage and drainage will be again taken up and the schemes already prepared proceeded with.

Closet Accommodation.—Practically all the houses situated in the villages within the area have now been provided with suitable closets, and the number of isolated cottages in the more rural parts of the district which are without sanitary conveniences are getting less every year. The closet in general use is the pail closet. There are very few water closets, but a number of

chemical closets of the Elsan type have been provided during the current year.

Rivers and streams.—In spite of all the endeavours of the Council and its officers to put a stop to the practice of depositing refuse, etc., in the streams (especially the smaller ones), it is still done to a lesser extent than in years past, under cover of night. Four cases of river pollution were brought to light and effectively dealt with.

Scavenging.—The villages of St. Dogmells and the town of Newport are periodically scavenged. The Council does not undertake the work of removing the contents of earth-closets, privies, or ash-pits in any part of the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

(a) Number and nature of inspections made:—Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected, 121; pigstyes inspected, 66; fowl-cots inspected, 32; stables inspected, 7; sanitary conveniences inspected 122; houses for sanitary defects inspected, 98; back premises, yards, etc., inspected, 69; urinals inspected, 11; drains inspected, 36; sources of water supply inspected, 10; offensive pools and polluted streams inspected, 9; foul ditches inspected, 3; bakehouses inspected, 11; slaughter-houses inspected, 14; cesspools inspected, 2; other unclassified premises inspected, 24; total inspections, 635.

(b) Defects and nuisances discovered.—Number of cowsheds without properly constructed floors, 21; do. without proper means of lighting, 20; do. without satisfactory means of drainage and drainage disposal, 34; do. with lofts that needed to be removed, 4; do. that needed to be cleansed, 7; do. with unplastered walls, 6; do. with insanitary surroundings, 3. Number of unsuitable premises used for storing milk, 4. Insanitary pigstyes, 6. Insanitary fowl-cots, 3. Houses without closets, 35. Closets found in an insanitary condition, 12. Privies that needed to be converted into earth closets, 14. Houses found unfit for human habitation, 8. Houses found defective but not unfit for habitation, 58. Dilapidated buildings dealt with, 3. Cottages found in filthy condition, 2. Accumulations of manure that needed to be removed, 19. Uncovered ash-heaps that needed to be removed, 12. Insanitary drains, 6. Polluted wells, 3. Offensive pools, 5. Polluted streams, 4. Foul ditches 5. Bake-houses in need of limewashing, 1. Insanitary cesspools, 1. Nuisances arising from waste water deposited in surface channels, etc., 3.

(c) Notices served.—Informal, 204; statutory, 67.

(d) Result of the service of notices:—

Cowsheds.—Number provided with concrete floors properly drained, 9; number provided with proper means of lighting, 10; number provided with proper means of drainage and drainage disposal, 19; number of lofts removed, 3; number of walls plastered, 3; number of accumulations removed, 3; number cleansed, 5; number with improved surroundings, 3. Written or verbal

undertakings have been given by the respective owners of cowsheds that have not been brought up to the requisite structural standard to effect the necessary improvements before the 30th of June 1926. Three new cowsheds are to be provided.

Milk stores, etc.—Number of new milk stores provided, 3; number structurally improved and cleansed, 1. Number of fowl-cots cleansed, 2. Number of houses provided with closets, 15; number of houses in course of being provided with closets, 9; number of closets rendered sanitary, 10.

Unfit cottages.—Number closed, 2; number occupied but not to be re-occupied when alternate accommodation has been found for occupants, 6.

Defective cottages.—Number which have had their defects remedied, 19; number with remedial measures in hand, 9; number of filthy cottages cleansed, 2.

Dangerous ruins.—Number demolished or rendered safe, 2.

Filthy houses.—Number cleansed, 2.

Ash heaps, etc.—Ash-heaps and accumulations of manure.—Removed following spring.

Wells.—Number of wells secured from contamination, 3.

Ditches.—Number of nuisances arising from foul ditches abated, 4.

Cesspools.—Number of cesspools closed and no longer used, 1.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary conditions and water supplies of schools:—

Bridell and Llantood.—Conveniences have been improved at Bridell and Llantood Council Schools and are now in a satisfactory condition.

Moylgrove.—The closets of Moylgrove Council School were found to be in an insanitary condition, but no action was necessary to be taken owing to the County Council having the matter in hand.

Abercych.—A water supply is being provided opposite the school.

Eglwysrwrw.—A scheme of water supply is now under consideration for this school.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Nuisances arising from smoke do not exist and it has therefore been unnecessary for the Council to take any action in the matter.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by bye-laws or regulations.—There are no offensive trades or underground sleeping rooms in the district. A considerable number of houses, especially in the town of Newport, are let in lodgings during the summer months. They are orderly kept and it has not at any time been necessary to take any action respecting same. Bye-laws with respect to common lodging houses have been in force in the district since the 21st day of March 1879.

HOUSING.

General housing conditions.—The general housing conditions are very much the same as they were when I made my last survey

report. I then anticipated the building of a large number of working class cottages under the Council's housing scheme. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulties experienced in connection with the working of the said scheme, not a single house was erected though a number of sites were selected and the land purchased. The only measures since taken by the Council to meet the need of the area in the matter of housing has been the adoption of schemes for assisting private enterprise under the Housing etc. Act 1923, and the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1924.

Overcrowding.—A few cases of overcrowding have been brought to light, but the Council is powerless to deal with same owing to the lack of housing accommodation.

Fitness of houses.—A large proportion of the labourers' cottages situated in the district are still more or less unfit. As a rule they are damp, badly lighted, and without means of through ventilation. The Council have decided that no further action is to be taken under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, until alternative housing accommodation has been provided. A large number of houses were, however, inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Act. The results have been summarised in another part of my report.

Bye-laws.—Bye-laws with respect to common lodging houses have been in force since the 21st day of March 1879, and amended bye-laws with respect to new streets and new buildings since the 18th day of September 1913.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk supply.—Steps were taken by the Council during the year to carry out its obligations under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act 1922. As a result of the action taken by them, several applications for registration have been received from purveyors of milk; some of these have been granted and the remainder deferred until necessary structural improvements have been effected to the cowsheds or milk-stores. There has been a marked improve-

ment generally in the conditions under which milk is produced in the district and in the arrangements for distribution as well. There is only one producer of Grade A milk in the whole area.

Meat.—There is no public abattoir in the district and much of the meat consumed is produced outside.

Private slaughter houses.—Licensed—1920, 19; January 1925, 16; December 1925, 16. Registered—0. No meat was condemned during the year.

Bake-houses.—With one exception the bake-houses were found in a scrupulously clean condition.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases generally.—Epidemics of infectious diseases since the year 1920 have been very few and of a very minor nature. There were also fewer notifications for this year than any of the last five years. Diphtheria antitoxin is kept in stock by the M.O.H. and can be supplied immediately to any medical practitioner in the district on application to the M.O.H. No cases of encephalitis lethargica were reported during the year and no return cases of scarlet fever.

A bacteriological laboratory has been fitted at the County Health Offices, Haverfordwest, where swabs from the throats of diphtheria patients, etc., can be examined and reported on within 24 hours. A list of infectious diseases other than T.B. notified during the year is set out below:—

Small pox—0. Scarlet fever—cases notified, 2; admitted to hospital—0; deaths—0. Diphtheria—cases notified, 3; admitted to hospital, 0; deaths, 0. Enteric fever—cases notified, 3; admitted to hospital, 0; deaths 0. Puerperal fever—cases notified, 1; admitted to hospital, 0; deaths, 0. Inf.-pneumonia—cases notified, 1; admitted to hospital, 0; deaths, 1. Erysipelas—cases notified, 5; admitted to hospital, 0; deaths, 0. Ophthalmia neonatorum—cases notified, 1; admitted to hospital, 0; deaths, 0. Total—Cases notified, 16; admitted to hospital, 0; deaths, 1.

Vaccination.—51 certificates of successful vaccination were received and 16 exemption certificates.

TUBERCULOSIS.

PARTICULARS OF NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age period.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Pulmon-ary.		Non-pulmon-ary.			Pulmon-ary.		Non-Pulmon-ary.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
5	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
10	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
15	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0
20	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
25	...	2	...	3	...	0	...	0	...	0
35	...	1	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	0
45	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0
55	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
65 and upwards	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0
Totals	...	4	...	8	...	1	...	1	...	0

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)—9. (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—(i) By the Local Authority—0; (ii) by other bodies or persons—9.

1.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—153. (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925—0. (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—8. (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—58.

2.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers—0.

3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925:—(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—0. (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: (a) By owners—0; (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—0. (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close—0.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.—(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—44. (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: (a) By owners—28; (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—0.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.—(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—4. (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—4. (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit—0. (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—0. (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—0.

Applications for registration—45. Applications granted—18. Applications deferred—27.

